

**What is Claimed:**

1. A method for manipulating a plurality of discrete units of information (“Items”) in a hardware/software interface system for a computer system, said method comprising interconnecting said Items with a plurality of Relationships and managing said Relationships at the hardware/software interface system level.
2. The interface system of claim 1 wherein each Relationship from among said plurality of Relationships constitutes, at the hardware/software interface system level, a mapping between a pair of Items that said Relationship interconnects.
3. The interface system of claim 2 wherein each Relationship has properties.
4. The interface system of claim 3 wherein each Relationship comprises a property (Target) for the identification of said Relationship’s target Item.
5. The interface system of claim 4 wherein each Relationship further comprises a property (IsOwned) for the ownership of said Relationship’s target Item.
6. The interface system of claim 3 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common value for a common property.
7. The interface system of claim 3 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common property.

8. The interface system of claim 3 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having the same Item type.
9. The interface system of claim 3 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common parent Item type.
10. The interface system of claim 3 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items based on a user-defined parameter.
11. A computer-readable medium with computer-readable instructions for a hardware/software interface system for a computer system, wherein said hardware/software interface system manipulates a plurality of discrete units of information ("Items"), said Items interconnected by a plurality of Relationships managed by said hardware/software interface system.
12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein each Relationship from among said plurality of Relationships constitutes, at the hardware/software interface system level, a mapping between a pair of Items that said Relationship interconnects.
13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein each Relationship has properties.
14. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein each Relationship comprises a property (Target) for the identification of said Relationship's target Item.
15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 wherein each Relationship further comprises a property (IsOwned) for the ownership of said Relationship's target Item.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common value for a common property.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common property.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having the same Item type.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common parent Item type.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items based on a user-defined parameter.

21. A hardware/software interface system, for use in a computer system, for manipulating a plurality of discrete units of information ("Items"), wherein said Items interconnected by a plurality of Relationships managed by said hardware/software interface system.

22. The interface system of claim 21 wherein each Relationship from among said plurality of Relationships constitutes, at the hardware/software interface system level, a mapping between a pair of Items that said Relationship interconnects.

23. The interface system of claim 22 wherein each Relationship has properties.
24. The interface system of claim 23 wherein each Relationship comprises a property (Target) for the identification of said Relationship's target Item.
25. The interface system of claim 24 wherein each Relationship further comprises a property (IsOwned) for the ownership of said Relationship's target Item.
26. The interface system of claim 23 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common value for a common property.
27. The interface system of claim 23 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common property.
28. The interface system of claim 23 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having the same Item type.
29. The interface system of claim 23 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items having a common parent Item type.
30. The interface system of claim 23 wherein the hardware/software interface system automatically establishes a Relationship between each pair of Items based on a user-defined parameter.